

a considerable amount of overlapping in the measurements, should retain *M. melanope* for the eastern race, at all events until more specimens from the region of the typical locality are available. It seems to me clear from Mr. Bates's evidence that the eastern form does not in any case extend so far west as Turkestan and Persia, as was previously considered, and cannot, therefore, bear the name *M. caspica*.

DR. FINN SALOMONSEN sent the following note on a new race of the Willow Grouse :—

The islands off the Trondhjems Fjord in western Norway are inhabited by a sedentary, very peculiar race of the Willow Grouse, which I propose to call

***Lagopus lagopus variegatus*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—In autumn dress indistinguishable from *L. l. lagopus* (Linnæus), but differs from that form by having a very retarded moult into winter plumage, and by assuming the white winter plumage only partly. Winter feathers on crown constantly with black base or even quite black. Primaries constantly heavily blotched and marked with dark brownish-black patches and spots (only one out of 27 specimens indistinguishable from *L. l. lagopus*).

Distribution.—Restricted to the islands in the Trondhjems Fjord: Fröya (type-locality), Hitra, Storfosna, from where specimens are examined; probably also Smöla. 27 specimens examined, all belonging to the Gothenburg Zoological Museum.

Type.—♂ ad., Fröya, Trondhjems Fjord, January 19, 1935, collected by B. Hanson; in the Gothenburg Zoological Museum.

Remarks.—It is due to the kindness of Prof. L. A. Jägerskiöld that I was able to examine this fine series. The interesting state of winter moult in these birds is already described by the collector, Bernhard Hanson, in 'Norsk Jagar & Fiskeri For. Tidskrift,' no, 7, 1935, and was mentioned by Prof. Jägerskiöld in 'Göteborgs Musei Aarstryck 1935,' p. 10; in both publications are photos showing the plumage.

L. l. variegatus does not begin to assume white winter feathers until November (*L. l. lagopus* in September), and does

not finish the winter moult until January; already in January to February the summer moult is commenced (*L. l. lagopus* in April to May). Especial interest is attached to *L. l. variegatus* as an intermediate form between *L. l. lagopus* and *L. l. scoticus*.

Further particulars will be communicated elsewhere at some future date.

Mr. C. W. BENSON sent the following description of a new race of *Alethe macclouniei* :—

***Alethe macclouniei njombe*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Differs from *Alethe macclouniei* in having a darker, less olive back and rump, upper and under tail-coverts much brighter cinnamon, and the tail-feathers more conspicuously diffused with this same cinnamon colour.

Distribution.—The distribution of the two races of *Alethe macclouniei* is, therefore, as follows :—

Alethe macclouniei macclouniei Shelley (Bull. B. O. C. xiii. 1903, p. 61) : Nyika Plateaux, Northern Nyasaland, 7000 feet.

Alethe macclouniei njombe Benson. Only known so far from Njombe, southern Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—An adult male from Njombe, southern Tanganyika Territory, 9°1' S., 34°75' E., 6600 feet, forest jungle. Collected by Lynes-Lowe Expedition. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1932.5.10.207.

Remarks.—Nine specimens examined. I am much indebted to Capt. C. H. B. Grant, who has examined my conclusions, and is in agreement with them.

Mr. BENSON also sent the following note on the status of the genus *Cryptospiza* in Nyasaland :—

While identifying at the British Museum a collection of birds made by myself in Nyasaland, two *Cryptospizæ* obtained in the same locality in the Masuku Mts., near the Nyasaland-Tanganyika border, appeared to be attributable to *C. reichenovii sanguinolenta* Vincent and *C. salvadorii australis* Shelley respectively. It occurred to me that in reality these two specimens might be of one and the same species. Numbers of *Cryptospizæ* were observed on the forest floor, and there was nothing to suggest from observation of the living birds